Prevalence of diarrhoea

19. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people have suffered due to Diarrhoea in the country during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 and the number of deaths in each year; and

(b) the current figure in Metropolitan cities during January-April, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per available data in the Ministry, number of cases of diarrhoeal disease and deaths in the country during 1999, 2000 and 2001 are as follows:—

Year	Cases	Deaths
1999	82,15,296	3,594
2000	88,12,925	2,901
2001	81,71,206	2,273

City-wise information, however, is not centrally maintained.

Discrimination in Reimbursement of Medical Expenses

20. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the reimbursement of medical expenses incurred in private hospitals recognized by the CGHS authorities in terms of his Ministry's OM dated the 7th September, 2001 is limited to the 50% of the actual expenses incurred by a pensioner as against the 100 per cent reimbursement made to a serving officer;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination; and

(c) whether there is a move to remove the discrimination and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir, A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been entered into by Director, CGHS with each of the private hospitals recognised under CGHS Delhi *vide* Dept. of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001 which binds the hospitals not to charge CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) over and above the ceiling rates for various medical procedures/

tests/investigations fixed by the Government in the said O.M. Therefore, there is no discrimination in the reimbursement of medical expenses to serving beneficiaries and pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Tackling Thalassaemia

21. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how the dreaded diseases like Thalassaemia are being tackled by Government;

(b) whether his Ministry has any plan to advocate compulsory blood testing to detect the carriers before marriage; and

(c) whether Government have initiated any awareness programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The curative treatment for Thalassaemia major is bone marrow transplantation which is available at Christian Medical College, Vellore. The facility to control Thalassaemia by preventing birth of Thalassaemic children by genetic counseling and prenatal diagnosis of the affected foetus during pregnancy and terminating the same is available at Institute of Immunohaematology (Indian Council of Medical Research), Mumbai; Department of Genetics at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Wadia Children Hospital, Mumbai.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry at this stage.

(c) A research project entitled "Community Control of Thalassaemia syndromes awareness, screening. Genetic counseling and Prevention" has been initiated by Indian Council of Medical Research.

Losses in Medical Stores Depot

22. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH ANC FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Medical Stores Depot has been running in loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that establishment cost has increased almost double during the five years period from 1994-95 to 1999-2000;